

**Minutes of Meeting
Souris River Joint Water Resource Board
Thursday, September 4, 2025**

A regular meeting of the board of directors of the Souris River Joint Water Resource District was called to order by Chairman David Ashley at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 4, 2025, after announcing that a quorum was present. The meeting was held in Room 203 of the Minot Auditorium. Joint Board members in attendance were Jason Sorenson, Tom Klein, Dan Steinberger and Clif Issendorf.

The Joint Board discussed the proposed Agenda for the meeting. Ryan Ackerman indicated the Barr Engineering Task Order should be noted as Task Order 7 instead of Task Order 6 on the agenda.

Jason Sorenson made a motion to approve the adjusted agenda for the meeting. Dan Steinberger seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.

The draft minutes of the Thursday, August 7, 2025 regular meeting of the Joint Board were discussed. Dan Steinberger advised there was a spelling error on Page 3 of the draft minutes (Dan Steinberger errantly spelled as Dain Steinberger).

Clif Issendorf made a motion to approve the corrected minutes from the August 7, 2025 regular meeting. Jason Sorenson seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.

Ryan Ackerman presented the Balance Sheet and Budget Report and the Joint Board reviewed the Budget Report included in the September Board Packet. Ryan Ackerman explained the Budget Report.

Jason Sorenson moved to approve the Budget Report. Dan Steinberger seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.

The Joint Board considered HDR Engineering Task Order No. 7. Ryan Ackerman indicated HDR Engineering has gone through their contract for construction and restoration for the Mouse River Park Bridge and has modified their scope to eliminate overlap with AECM scope.

Dan Steinberger moved to approve the HDR Engineering Task Order No. 7 Amendment. Tom Klein seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.

The Joint Board next considered the Barr Engineering Task Order No. 8 Amendment. Ryan Ackerman explained the change to the scope of work and explained a similar amendment may follow from Houston Engineering. The proposed amendment increases Barr Engineering's plan by \$3 million and takes their overall compensation to approximately \$7 million, so it results in roughly 5%. Dan Steinberger asked about Page 56 of the Board Packet that shows \$300,000 in two places instead of \$3 million. It was concluded that a zero was missing from the figure and would need to be corrected to reflect \$3 million.

Jason Sorenson moved to approve the Barr Engineering Task Order No. 8 Amendment. Dan Steinberger seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.

The Joint Board reviewed and discussed various bills set forth in the September Board Packet totaling \$6,403,113.25. Chairman Ashley opened it up for questions from the Board on each bill being considered for approval and advised the Verizon bill has been approved unilaterally and paid. On HDR Engineering, Dan Steinberger asked about a change to 88 cents per mile on Page 183 of the Board Packet. Dennis Reep of HDR Engineering indicated this is an internal change and a reflection of the cost to the company for the vehicles (from 75 cents per mile to 88 cents per mile). On Jared Lockthowe, Dan Steinberger asked if both items are adjustments. Ryan Ackerman explained the process for payments on contracts with property owners and the process involves a reconciliation at the end of the process and issuance of final payments.

Tom Klein moved to approve the payment of bills totaling \$6,403,113.25. Jason Sorenson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.

Jerry Bents updated on Phase MI-4 (Maple Diversion). A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the September Board Packet. Jerry Bents indicated the biggest update is that 65% design has been submitted to USACE. The goal for the project is to be ready for bidding in March of 2027.

Jerry Bents updated on Phase MI-5. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the September Board Packet. Jerry Bents advised completion is close. The contractor submitted for substantial completion a few weeks ago and an inspection was completed. The completion date is scheduled for October 19, 2025 by which time punch list items must be completed. There have been some issues with the concrete that was poured falling off, so the contractor has been issued a defective work notice and they are working with suppliers to provide rationale and correction action. Dan Steinberger asked how big of a spalling area this is. Jerry Bents indicated it is fairly large and the vast majority of the concrete that was poured on the project is experiencing the issues. The cost of replacement has been estimated and held out of the pay application.

Also on Phase MI-5, Jerry Bents explained the Utility Easement with SRT for power lines. The easement agreement was shown to the Joint Board. Jerry Bents indicated SRT is looking for permission for their fiber lines to come through the property on the north end. Dan Steinberger asked whether or not this was anticipated. Jason Sorenson indicated the two booster stations at that site are radio communication and there have been some issues with the water and sewer networks so they are moving away from radio communications to fiber connections. The new easement location is a shorter route into the booster pump station.

Jason Sorenson moved to approve the Utility Easement with SRT. Clif Issendorf seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.

Jerry Bents updated the Joint Board on Phase MI-6. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the September Board Packet. Jerry Bents Phase MI-6B is under construction. Jerry Bents showed a drone video to depict the progress on Phase MI-6.

Jerry Bents provided an update to the Joint Board on Phase MI-8/MI-9. A Project Status Report from Houston Engineering is contained in the September Board Packet. Jerry Bents advised they are making their way from 65% to 90% design. The 90% design is expected in October. Additional options have been looked at for protection of the properties south of 8th Avenue and a meeting with property owners is expected in the coming weeks. The hope is to get back to the City Council in early October for the proposed alignment to move forward.

Jason Westbrook of Barr Engineering updated the Joint Board regarding Phase MI-7. A Project Status Report is contained in the September Board Packet. Jason Westbrook showed a drone video from last Friday to the Joint Board to show updates on this phase. Dan Steinberger asked about Ms. Gunderson's safety concerns last month and if any follow up was received from her or whether any discussions have taken place with contractors regarding her concerns. Jason Westbrook indicated he has not heard any feedback. Dan Steinberger asked whether any coordination has taken place to make it accessible. Jason Westbrook indicated a has been on zoo accessibility relative to site safety, access and security.

Jason Westbrook provided an update to the Joint Board regarding WC-1. The Project Status Report is contained in the September Board Packet. Jason Westbrook indicated there is up update until there is feedback from CP Rail.

On the PER update, Jason Westbrook indicated there is no news to report. There will be a need to come to final recommendations and conclusions.

Ryan Ackerman provided the SRJB with a Rural Program Update. Ryan Ackerman advised that on Page 303 of the Joint Board Packet there are activities that have occurred on the Farm Trapped Water Program over the last month. In addition to that, the bidding process for the demolition and removal of structures. Relative to the structure at 2721 75th Street NW, two bids were received on September 2, 2025. The lowest bidder was DL Barkie Construction Inc. in the amount \$53,875.00.

Dan Steinberger moved to authorize acceptance of the lowest bid, which was received by DL Barkie Construction Inc. in the amount of \$53,875.00 Clif Issendorf seconded the motion. A roll call vote was cast. The motion passed without opposition.

Also relative to the Farm Trapped Water Program, Clif Issendorf asked about Item 3 on Page 303 of the Joint Board Packet, relative to the design plans. The Hall property is in Bottineau County and Clif Issendorf requested a copy of the design plans from the Joint Board to see what design is planned to address the problems. Ryan Ackerman indicated it would be emailed to Clif Issendorf tomorrow morning.

Luke Rogers of HDR Engineering provided an update regarding Rural Bridges. A Project Status Report is contained in the September Board Packet. On Velva, Luke Rogers indicated that last month, Change Order 1 was approved by SRJB. Yesterday the contractor returned that back with no questions or comments. Luke Rogers indicated there are still two permits that are awaited. It is estimated that those two permits will be wrapped up in 2-5 weeks, at which time notice to proceed and construction will advance.

Steven Eberle from AECM provided the Joint Board with an update on the Mouse River Park bridge. A Project Status Report is contained in the September Board Packet. Since the last meeting, the notice of award was issued, bonds and insurance have been received and the notice to proceed has been issued to Industrial Builders.

The Joint Board took note of future meetings and events as set forth in the September Board Packet. The next regular meeting of the Joint Board is scheduled to commence on October 2, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. in Minot, North Dakota.

In Personal Appearances, Chairman Ashley set forth an overview of the procedure. An appearance was made by Billi Gunderson from Minot, North Dakota. Ms. Gunderson showed the Joint Board the route she

takes from west to east to get to the east side of Roosevelt Park. Ms. Gunderson expressed frustrations with safety and accessibility for handicapped pedestrians.

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Ashley entertained a motion to adjourn.

Cliff Issendorf made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tom Klein seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.

Jack Dwyer
Legal Counsel